

Testimonials

GPO would like to share these letters received from key stakeholders in support of the agency project to digitize a complete legacy collection of tangible U.S. government publications as a service to the nation.



"In these times of instant access via the Internet, library users expect all federal publications to be available in an electronic format for immediate access. GPO's plan to convert print and other tangible Federal publications to online resources will dramatically increase access to these important resources. These files, freely available to all, will allow small academic libraries to offer the same level of access as advanced research institutions that may have the physical volumes in their collections."

Camila A. Alire, Ed.D.
President
Association of College and Research Libraries



"Creating a digital legacy collection of government documents will make it easier for our users to access these publications, save space in our libraries and demonstrate our joint capacity to embrace technological change in the digital age."

Martin Gomez
President and Chief Executive Officer
Urban Libraries Council



"This effort expands upon one of the core values of our nation; that an informed citizenry is central to a functioning democracy."

J. Gary Nichols
President
Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)
State Librarian
Maine State Library



"GPO's digitization efforts would open doors in our small communities that have been closed for centuries, and it would also level the playing field for smaller academic libraries that have been unable to afford to purchase digitized collections from private sources. The Government Printing Office proposal to digitize the legacy collection recognizes that expanded access to the nation's rich historical document collections will provide wideranging benefits to the citizens of the United States."

Richard Akeroyd
State Librarian
State of New Mexico

March 3, 2006

Bruce R. James
Public Printer of the United States
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Mr. James,

As current president of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), I am writing to support full funding for the GPO Salaries & Expenses appropriation as presented in the President's FY 2007 budget. Your request includes funding to carry out many important projects relating to the *Strategic Vision for the 21st Century* and the current and future needs of the Federal Depository Library Program and the public users that we serve.

As you may know, ACRL is a professional association of academic librarians that is also a division of the American Library Association. Our 12,400 members represent a wide range of academic institutions, ranging from large research universities, like my own, to community colleges and small public and private colleges.

I have observed with interest the changes that are occurring as a result of your leadership at GPO particularly the *Strategic Vision for the 21st Century*. I appreciate its emphasis on serving the public's information needs by increasing access to and the usefulness of Federal information. I am pleased to see GPO affirmatively addressing the need for broad and permanent public access to past, present and future U.S. government information.

Increased access to all published Federal information is a need throughout the library community, whether or not the libraries are partners in the Federal Depository Library Program. In these times of instant access via the Internet, library users expect all federal publications to be available in an electronic format for immediate access. GPO's plan to convert print and other tangible Federal publications to online resources will dramatically increase access to these important resources. These files, freely available to all, will allow small academic libraries to offer the same level of access as advanced research institutions that may have the physical volumes in their collections.

I wish you the best in your efforts to achieve funding for meeting the public's needs for easy access to government information.

Sincerely,

Camila A. Alire, Ed.D.
President, Association of College
And Research Libraries

Cc: ACRL Board
Mary Ghikas
Jill Moriearty

Alternative (resolution) format:

Whereas the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is a professional association of academic librarians with over 12,400 members representing a wide range of academic institutions, from large research universities to community colleges and small public and private colleges;

Whereas for nearly two hundred years the U.S. government has assured public access to its published information through the Federal Depository Library Program;

Whereas the GPO Salaries & Expenses appropriation as presented in the President's FY 2007 budget includes funding to carry out many important projects relating to GPO's *Strategic Vision for the 21st Century* and the current and future needs of the Federal Depository Library Program and the public users that it serves;

Whereas ACRL members have observed with interest the changes that are occurring at GPO under the leadership of the current Public Printer and Superintendent of Documents and appreciate GPO's emphasis on serving the public's information needs by increasing access to and the usefulness of Federal information;

Whereas increased access to all published Federal information is a need throughout the library community, whether or not the libraries are partners in the Federal Depository Library Program, and GPO is affirmatively addressing the need for broad and permanent public access to past, present and future information published by the U.S. government;

Whereas, in these times of instant access via the Internet, library users expect all federal publications to be available in an electronic format for immediate access; and

Whereas GPO's plan to convert historical print and other tangible Federal publications to online resources will dramatically increase public access to these important resources and allow academic libraries, regardless of size or wealth, to offer their students, faculty and other patrons access to a comprehensive online collection of published government information;

Therefore, be it resolved that the ACRL Executive Board supports full funding for the GPO Salaries & Expenses appropriation as presented in the President's FY 2007 budget; and

Be it further resolved that ACRL Executive Board commends GPO for its leadership in developing plans for the digitization of a comprehensive, public domain collection of past, present and future information published by the U.S. government and urges rapid implementation of those plans.



URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL

March 10, 2006

Judith C. Russell,
Superintendent of Documents & Managing Director
U.S. Government Printing Office
732 North Capitol St., NW
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Superintendent Russell,

On behalf of the Urban Libraries Council, an association of over 150 of the largest public libraries in North America and the corporations that support them, I am writing in support of the Government Printing Office strategic goal to digitize a complete legacy collection of tangible U.S. government documents. The value of such a digital collection would enhance public access to and increase awareness of the importance of government information.

Indeed, nearly every member of the Urban Libraries Council, from Sacramento Public Library in California to the New York Public Library in New York City, participates in the Federal Depository Library Program. Collectively we serve millions of diverse clients on a daily basis. In many communities we are the only access point to government documents that are used to meet the essential research needs of students, historians, public officials and new Americans.

Creating a digital legacy collection of government documents will make it easier for our users to access these publications, save space in our libraries and demonstrate our joint capacity to embrace technological change in the digital age.

We look forward to assisting the U.S. Government Printing Office in implementing your strategic goal. Do not hesitate to call on the Urban Libraries Council for further support and assistance.

Sincerely,

Martín Gómez
President and Chief Executive Officer.

CHIEF OFFICERS OF STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

March 15, 2006

President
J Gary Nichols
State Librarian
Maine State Library

Vice President/President-Elect
Susan McVey
State Librarian
State of Oklahoma

Secretary
Michael York
State Librarian
State of New Hampshire

Treasurer
Peggy Rudd
State Librarian
State of Texas

Director
Ann Joslin
State Librarian
State of Idaho

Director
Christie Brandau
State Librarian
State of Michigan

Immediate Past President
Gladys Ann Wells
Director
State of Arizona

Honorable Bruce James
Public Printer of the United States
Government Printing Office
North Capitol & H. Sts. N.W.
Mail Stop: P
Washington, D.C. 20401

Dear Mr. James:

The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) is a national organization comprised of the leadership of the nation's state library agencies. Our membership includes the chief officers from all 50 states and 2 territories.

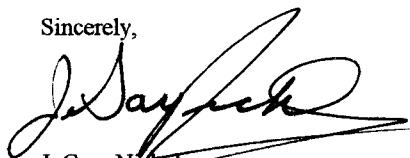
It is COSLA's view that the legacy collection digitization initiative undertaken by the United States Government Printing Office is an unparalleled opportunity to provide permanent access to tangible U.S. Government publications therefore greatly enhancing information access in the United States. The GPO's digitization efforts would open doors in small communities that have been closed for centuries, and it would also level the playing field for smaller academic libraries that have been unable to afford to purchase digitized collections from private sources.

The Government Printing Office proposal to digitize the legacy collection demonstrates a commitment on behalf of the Government Printing Office to provide free and equal access to information for all people. Digitalizing this collection will provide wide-ranging benefits to the citizens of the United States. Universal access to information will be available to all, where currently it is only available to those with access to libraries with large historical document holdings. In general, two groups currently have access to these rich resources; those with academic affiliations, and the few who reside near large public libraries or state libraries with large historical collections. Many states do not even have public libraries with federal document legacy collections. In order for the historian, student, or librarian working in remote regions to access historical collections, they must travel vast distances to either the state library or to academic libraries whose primary mission is to serve the faculty, staff and students of their institutions.

The Government Printing Office is also to be commended for the comprehensive design and implementation of its "Digitization Ranking Survey" in which all library types were invited to participate, to help determine which legacy collections should receive priority focus for the digitization initiative. The resultant focus and direction reflects the priorities of a cross section of library communities in the nation, serving a broad spectrum of citizen interests.

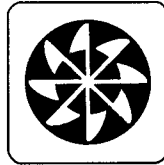
In summary, we strongly support GPO's efforts to digitize the nation's legacy collections. This effort expands upon one of the core values of our nation; that an informed citizenry is central to a functioning democracy. Broadening and equalizing access to our rich historical document collections will be a profound step forward, and a contribution of inestimable value to our nation.

Sincerely,



J. Gary Nichols
President
Chief Officer of State Library Agencies
State Librarian
Maine State Library

NEW MEXICO



STATE LIBRARY

February 23, 2006

Honorable Bruce James
Public Printer of the United States
Government Printing Office
North Capitol & H. Sts. N.W.
Mail Stop: P
Washington, D.C. 20401

Cc: Judith C. Russell, Superintendent of Documents

Dear Mr. James:

The New Mexico State Library represents the interests of more than 110 public libraries and branches statewide. In addition, the State Library is directly concerned with the quality and consistency of information access and library service for all residents of the State of New Mexico. With these concerns and responsibilities in mind, it is the State Librarian's view that the legacy collection digitization initiative undertaken by the United States Government Printing Office would greatly enhance information access in our state. GPO's digitization efforts would open doors in our small communities that have been closed for centuries, and it would also level the playing field for smaller academic libraries that have been unable to afford to purchase digitized collections from private sources.

The Government Printing Office proposal to digitize the legacy collection recognizes that expanded access to the nation's rich historical document collections will provide wide-ranging benefits to the citizens of the United States. The digitization of the legacy collection will allow universal access to information that is currently unavailable to those without access to libraries with large historical document holdings. In general, two groups currently have access to these rich resources; those privileged with academic affiliations, and the relative few who are fortunate enough to reside near large public libraries or state libraries with large historical collections. Many states, such as ours, do not have public libraries with substantial federal document legacy collections. In order for the historian, student, or librarian working in remote regions of our state to access historical collections, they must travel vast distances to either the state library or to academic libraries whose primary mission is to serve the faculty, staff and students of their institutions. As a result, access is uneven at best.

The Government Printing Office is to be commended for the comprehensive design and implementation of its "Digitization Ranking Survey" which was used to determine which legacy collections should receive priority focus for the digitization initiative. All library types were surveyed including depository, non-depository, public, state, and academic libraries. The resultant focus and direction reflects the priorities of a cross section of library communities in the nation, serving a broad spectrum of citizen interests.

In summary, we strongly support GPO's efforts to digitize the nation's legacy collections. This effort expands upon one of the core values of our nation; that an informed citizenry is central to a functioning democracy. Broadening and equalizing access to our rich historical document collections will be a profound step forward, and a contribution of inestimable value to our nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Akeroyd", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Akeroyd
State Librarian, State of New Mexico

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Canepa", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Laurie Canepa
Federal Documents Librarian